

Its next course of action was worthy of admiration as well as having its pathetic side. Standing on its hind legs with one paw on the rim of the container, it reached down and dipped the other in the water and on withdrawing it licked off the film of moisture thus collected. It obviously found some success in the application of the idea for it continued to dip and lick, dip and lick over and over and over again, till some of its thirst was relieved.

—W. H. LOARING, Bickley.

An Aboriginal Relic Near Pithara.—Few structural relics of the aborigines have as yet been reported from the Wheatbelt area though there must be many that have remained unrecognised. One of these, known locally as "the Octopus", is to be found on the property of Mr. George Mills (Blocks Ninghan 527, 528 Melbourne Loc. 1920) near Pithara.

On a stony clay pan, the only suitable one I saw in the district, the natives at some time or other created a structure composed of stones (laterite lumps) which are plentiful on the bed of the lake and on its shore.

At the centre is a mound of such stones still measuring about 12 inches in height and 25 feet in circumference. From its northern side there issues a curved row of stones 147½ feet in length measured along the arc. At the base this arm emerges at an angle of 30°E., reaching 60° at the summit and 120° at the end.

Three feet to the west of this arm, the imperfect remains of a second can be seen. It emerges at 330° and proceeds for 5 feet, where it is completely destroyed to reappear 100 feet away to the north-west where a few feet of the tip can be recognised.

From the western side of the mound at 255° a short arm 20 yards long is distinctly visible. There is no indication that this was



General view of the arrangement of stones near Pithara.

—Photo. Mrs. G. H. Mills.

at any time more extensive. Clusters of stones in the south-eastern quadrant may be the remains of a fourth arm.

The owner of the property, having been informed of the value of this remnant, is anxious to preserve it as a natural monument.

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum, Perth.

Further Bunketch Bird Notes.—After another stay in the Bunketch district, from November 28, 1951 to January 16, 1952, I have some additional observations on the local bird-life to add to the information given in the *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 68-71.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—Although not recorded the previous year it now proved to be fairly abundant towards Pithara and at Kalannie. It appears to be a retiring species here and was only seen when feeding on the spilled wheat on the roads.

Southern Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*).—Was heard calling twice at night.

Australian Little Eagle (*Hieraetus morphuoides*).—Several birds were seen soaring over cleared country. The species is not, however, on present knowledge to be considered very common.

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus notatus*).—One bird was seen, between Kalannie and Pithara. A watch was kept for the Letter-winged Kite (*E. scriptus*), but none were seen.

Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*).—The only bird seen was a female, hit by a truck on the Dalvallinu road. The bird was large, with a wing-span of 38 in., and a weight of 1 lb. 7 oz.

Boobook Owl (*Ninox novæ-scelandiæ*).—The bird was heard often at night, though not seen and it is puzzling why it was not heard last year.

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).—A bird, which had been lit by a car, was brought in by a farmer, and identified as this species.

Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus guttatus*).—This bird was added to the list through the medium of a specimen hit by a car, and brought in for identification.

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).—A small party of these birds was seen on many occasions at the Kalannie recreation ground.

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*).—This year opportunity was taken to examine the nearby salt lakes, but the only new bird seen was this species. Several small flocks were observed.

Brown Song-Lark (*Cinelothamphus cruralis*).—This species was observed twice in cleared country between Bunketch and Kalannie.

All told, a further 11 species were added to the list for Bunketch, making a total of 54 species for the two visits. Mention might be made of the omission of the Black-throated Butcher-bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*) in the original paper although it had been reckoned in the final total. The bird is quite common throughout the whole district.

—DON REID, Wembley.